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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS.

BY PROFESSOR D. MACLEAN, M. D.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: To me has been assigned the pleasant duty of saying a few parting words to the graduating class, but first permit me to thank the many friends, who, by their presence here to-night, manifest an interest in the success of this new institution. We appreciate your kindness and sympathy, and hope by our conduct to merit your approbation and encouragement in the future. Many unkind things have been said of us in the past year by parties representing the other schools of medicine; many untrue things have been uttered by the same parties which honorable men should blush to do, knowing them to be false. All such defamers I answer in the words of Scott: "If thou sayest I am not the peer to any lord in Scotland here, highland or lowland, far or near, Lord Angus, thou hast lied."

We do not propose to build ourselves up by pulling others down, but we propose to base our claims on our success. The only way to test our merit is by comparison. The records of the Health Office will convince any one, that we give the fewest passes to *Mountain View*.

We are endeavoring to build up a system of liberal medi-

cine and educate men and women who will not degrade a noble profession. We need your support that we may be able to maintain this institution, whose reputation is as dear to us as our own, whose character we shall preserve as chaste as the icicle which hangs on Diana's temple, and whose name shall be as pure as the crystal fountain which bubbles from the mountain's side.

Members of the graduating class, you have completed your prescribed course of college study, passed the dread ordeal, and have been found worthy to receive the honors of this college. In behalf of the faculty, I welcome you to the ranks of a noble profession, as co-laborers in the field of medical investigation and discovery. I welcome you to its labors and rewards, and hope they may be many and well deserved. Consider well your responsibilities and duties. They are not of the character of the holiday excursionist. They are thoughtful, earnest and solemn duties, involving life and death.

The pages of history along the course of time are graced by many illustrious names for deeds of valor, statesmanship, discoveries in the arts and sciences, benevolence and philanthropy; but none shine brighter, none have conferred greater blessings on humanity, than members of the profession to which you belong. The warrior who leads his host to victory, and amid destruction and carnage, pain and desolation, triumphantly drives the foe from the field of battle, dictates terms which dethrone kings, and change the boundaries of empires, is not as great as he who comforts the afflicted, gives hope to the desponding, and courage to the distressed. Greater is he who saves one life than he who destroys a thousand. Greater is he who, when the king of terror hovers over the couch of the dear husband, the beloved wife, the precious child, the favorite sister or the honored brother, by his skill, drives death beyond the shades of gloom, and restores the sick to the arms of friends and family, than he, who like Napoleon, the greatest of warriors, drenched the sands of Egypt, the plains of Germany, Italy and Spain, and the snows of Russia with the best blood of Europe, and left misery, want and sorrow wherever he went.

Medicine has not arrived at the acme of perfection. There is still work for you. There are mysteries which lie hidden in the secret recesses of nature, which, if you are patient investigators and diligent searchers, she may unfold to you. Your names may grace the pages of history as benefactors of your race. You have just laid the foundation of a structure upon which we expect you to build fame and glory that shall be more enduring than monuments of marble and stone.

Therapeutics is a rich field, where you may find by industrious observation undiscovered, golden truths. The influence of drugs over diseased conditions, and the special indications for their use, are but in their infancy. He who prosecutes this branch of our profession in a spirit of truth, will reap a lasting reward and confer incalculable benefits on humanity. Of all the knowledge we possess the greatest part has been acquired in the past hundred years; indeed, I might say, in the life-time of men now living. And since so much has been discovered in the past century, it would be absurd to imagine that there would not be much more in the next.

New laws are being discovered, new properties of matter ascertained, and I predict new discoveries in medicine which shall make our present knowledge seem as ridiculous as the knowledge possessed by physicians of a few hundred years ago seem to us to-day. The time is coming when we shall have no incurable diseases. Our talk of incurability is a confession of ignorance. It is only a few years ago, that it was laid down as law, that if a case supposed to be consumption was cured, that it was not consumption, but something else. Yet we know to-day, that cases of consumption are cured, and we are getting over the idea that it is entirely an incurable disease. We look upon cancer as incurable. I believe that cases are cured, and that the time is not far distant when we shall be able to treat it as successfully as we do benign tumors. There are no incurable diseases in nature. Our failures are simply a lack of knowledge of nature and her laws.

Although you have completed your prescribed course in

this College, you have not finished your studies. Yours is a life-long pupilage. Medicine is progressive, and in order that you may be good and successful physicians, you must devote a large share of your time to the study of your profession. Human lives are placed in your hands. If there are any new discoveries in medical science, that can benefit your patients, you have no right to be ignorant of them. Yours is a trust that is of infinitely more importance than treasures of gold. Betray not that trust. All ages, from the cherub that nestles in its mother's bosom to the aged sire, bent with the weight of years and crowned with the silvery locks of time, will be committed to your care, and it is your bounden duty to be prepared to meet each case with the best light of science. To do this you must have your minds free from prejudice and stored with the richest treasures of knowledge. You must read and study the literature of the day. Not of your own school alone, you must also read Allopathic and Homœopathic or any other pathic books and journals from which you can gather information and learn to cure your patients. The fact of your being eclectic physicians requires that you glean from every source. The fact that you are eclectic physicians should be a guarantee that you are better informed than any class of physicians who are trammelled and bound by arbitrary codes.

Science knows no creed, but that of *truth*. The true investigator recognizes facts wherever found. There is no patent on knowledge. Neither is it obtained by divine gift nor by the right of inheritance. It cannot be picked up like pebbles on the sea-shore. The acquiring of knowledge involves diligent application and constant study. Any man who assumes to know more than you because he belongs to a different school is a pretender and a fraud, because the whole domain of knowledge lies open before you, and you have free access to its innermost chambers. It is only the ignorant who make such claims. It is only the fools who cannot reason, the bigots who will not, and the slaves who dare not.

As physicians, you must be kind and considerate to your

patients. Your duty on entering the sick room is to give your undivided attention to the case in hand. Let your general demeanor be quiet and calm. It is not necessary that you tell how many cases you attended that day or how many similar cases you have seen. But it is necessary that you should impress your patients favorably by your conduct and conversation. Upon your influence over them depends your success. Give your directions in such a manner as to make the attendant understand that you mean it and must be obeyed. Be careful at each successive visit to observe whether your directions have been faithfully carried out. Make your medicines as pleasant as possible, and you will gain in their estimation. It is the nauseous, disagreeable doses which make them rebel. With care and the skill of the druggist these difficulties may be avoided.

You will be obliged to do a great deal of labor of love. Of all men you are supposed to be the most charitable. You frequently will have to give your time and medicine for nothing. You will soon learn, if you do not know it already, that there are three kinds of poor: God's poor, the devil's poor, and the poor devils. Be considerate to God's poor, or the worthy poor, they are simply unfortunate; and, at the same time, though you will not allow yourselves to be imposed upon by the devil's poor and the poor devils, you will not forget the brotherhood of man. You will not forget your humanity, and pass by without giving relief in time of trouble.

Be courteous in your intercourse with the public, correct in your habits, and affable in your manners. Yours is an elevated position and you should set the best example. Your conduct should be above reproach, as citizens and physicians. You should live, that the world should be better that you lived in it. Your influence will be great, see that you exercise it in the right direction. The tale of suffering and the murmuring of woe will often be confided to your ears. The secrets and troubles of the family will be recited in your presence and your advice solicited. You will be in a position to do a great deal of good or harm. Let me say, whatever is con-

fined to you in trust must not be divulged. Give the inquisitive to understand, even at the risk of losing their friendship, that matters of confidence between you and your patients are as sacred to you as the confessional to the priest.

Do not speak ill of your brothers of the profession of any school. Your differences are not personal, but only in judgment and opinions. There are noble hearts and liberal minds in all schools. They may be as honest as you, if not as competent and successful. Treat arrogance with contempt. The presumptuous are not worth quarreling with. Never forget the golden rule. Never forget, that, although you have become doctors, you do not cease to be ladies and gentlemen. Your pills and powders must not take the place of good breeding and good manners. Civility costs nothing and society demands courtesy and dignity.

It is possible that you may find some ignorant bigot, who may refuse to consult with you, because you are eclectics. I have never met such myself. I have heard of them. Let that not annoy you. It will redound to your credit and draw the public in closer sympathy with you. If you are recognized in your communities as intelligent physicians, he who refuses to consult with you only proclaims himself a bigot and a slave. Consultation is not for the benefit of the doctor, though he may obtain valuable information. It is for the benefit of the patient. You have no right to refuse to hear the opinions and suggestions of any intelligent physician of good moral character, no matter to what school he belongs, if your patient so desires. Nay, more, there are instances in which you would not compromise your dignity to listen to the experience of some good old lady. Never get so wise that you think you know it all. Never get so egotistic as to imagine that wisdom shall die with you.

Finally, we bid you farewell, hoping that in whatever station in life you may be placed, you will fill well your part. Your reputation and the reputation of this institution are closely allied. We trust that you, by your future conduct, will continue to merit our confidence, and keep unsullied the

degree that has been conferred on you. We part, but feel that the bands of sympathy existing between us shall never be divided. You are the representatives of this College in the field, and upon your success greatly depends ours. See to it that, by high aims and noble purposes, your profession will be advanced, and laurels added to the crown of liberal medicine.

May dreams of pleasure and happiness attend you in peaceful slumber this night. May your pathway in life be strewn with the flowers of expectation, and your plans diffused with the fragrance of success. May your declining days be crowned with the smiles of a grateful people in honor of a well-spent life. May your works and deeds be enrolled on the imperishable scroll of fame, and endure for ages after the place that knows you now, shall know you no more. Farewell!

READY REMEDIES.

BY C. H. HOUP, M. D.

THE limit to our *Materia Medica* is not yet established, nor will it ever be, for as long as time shall last new remedies will be produced and new applications of old remedies will be discovered, to say nothing of new preparations of old drugs. The assertion that the supply of new remedies and discoveries of new applications for old remedies is not equal to the demand will not for a moment be believed by any taker and reader of medical journals. The vast field that is so thickly covered by remedial agents from which the young physician has to select is appalling. If he, in his bewilderment, avails himself of the experience of some older practitioner he would be perhaps all right if he has been judicious in the selection of his pattern and if he have exactly similar cases; but he does not, for all patients with the same disease are not similarly treated, that is, successfully so. Now, I am prepared to say what I mean by ready remedies, it is those whose physiological actions are most frequently indicated, those remedial agents which are most common, are easily obtained in any locality, and from their being common, cheap and fre-

quently used, are less likely to be adulterated or substituted than a new, rare, and consequently expensive drug. A druggist may be ever so reliable, may be altogether beyond substitution or altering the quantity of any ingredient of a prescription coming to his store for compounding; he may receive a prescription containing a rare ingredient which he has not in stock, he sends to the most *reliable* and *the* first-class store of the city. We will say the ingredient in question is a Fluid Extract, and it is not disputed that many of this class of preparations look, taste, and smell alike, no matter how different their actions may be. It would ruin the reputation of the first class store not to have any medicine called for. Is he less scrupulous than the first druggist? Yes, he is; if he has not the ingredient called for he sends out a substitute, and the first druggist, powerless to detect the substitution, compounds the prescription, and the physician is astonished at the action or want of action of his remedy. If we desire to develop any part of our anatomy, we use it, and the more we use it the greater the development and the more serviceable it becomes to us. So it is with our remedies! Life is so short that we can each of us try but a very few of the remedies. Let us as far as possible avail ourselves of the experience of others; let us use those remedies that are easily procured in a reliable form, that are easy of administration, because of their dose being small or their taste agreeable. I have been astonished at the lack of faith some physicians express in medicine, and I have firmly made up my mind that the fault is not so much in the medicine as in the physician. If we load up a bottle with seventeen ingredients and fail to get the expected action, I claim it is not because of the quality or inertness of the medicine, but of our villainous combination.

I do not advocate the use of old remedies to the exclusion of the new, but rather to make wise selections, being thoroughly cognizant with the physiological actions of our remedies, and hence using them to the best advantage. The reason for not obtaining good results from the administration of medi-

cine is not because the medicine is incapable of producing good results, but because it is so frequently the case that one medicine is given when another is indicated. A list of remedies that would suit one physician would not suit all; different localities and circumstances would vary the list. There is much room for the display of common sense in the selection of remedies and in the making up of prescriptions. Once be certain of your diagnosis of what you desire to accomplish by the administration of medicine, then the knowledge of the physiological action of drugs will aid you in the selection of the appropriate remedy, that being in its most condensed and tasteless form. The additions you make to your prescription should be either for the purpose of diluting your remedy, as a menstrum, to assist its action, or to neutralize or change some undesirable action.

I have every faith in medicine when it is of good quality and properly administered; and every physician following the above course or one similar, must meet with a fair share of success.

APOCYNUM CANNABINUM.

BY I. J. M. GOSS, A. M., M. D., MARIETTA, GA.

APOCYNUM CANNABINUM should not be confounded with the Apocynum Androsemlifolium (dog's-bane), as their medicinal virtues are quite different. The Apocynum Can. has a limited sphere of action, but in that sphere, it is one of our most positive and useful remedial agents. Its affinity is for the kidneys—all other actions seem to be the result of its action upon the kidneys. In very large doses, often repeated, it does sometimes purge, and if not, it may produce irritation and passive congestion of the kidneys. In overdoses, its primary action is profuse discharge of urine, but its secondary action causes a peculiar torpid action of the kidneys, hence it should never be given in large doses. In all forms of dropsy, from inactivity of the kidneys, Apocynum is curative. Other forms of dropsy may be palliated by its use, but they are liable to return. I have frequently relieved dropsy,

depending upon disease of the heart, but found it to return in a few months, and so of cases of dropsy caused by disease of the spleen, liver and bowels. In anasarca, ascite, oedema of the legs, hydrothorax and even hydrocephalus, this remedy proves curative when renal torpor is the cause. In acute, idiopathic dropsies very small doses should be used, from 1 to 2 gtts. of the fluid extract, every two hours is sufficient. But in old chronic, atonic, or secondary dropsies, the dose may be run up as high as 10 to 15 gtts. every three or four hours. And I have used the infusion in one or two drachm doses in old chronic cases. In most cases the infusion will answer better than the tincture. I usually make a saturated infusion, by simply covering the crushed root in water, and slowly infusing on a sand-bath for several hours, then adding, while cooling, enough alcohol to preserve it; of this, I give 10 to 30 drops, every two or three hours. In acute dropsies the infusion is much the best. It is like Digitalis, better when made in watery infusion than in tincture. Even in dropsy from organic disease of the heart, Apocynum Can. will keep down the effusion, and allow the heart to regain much of its wonted strength. I am now treating two cases, in old men, 60 and 70 years of age, in both cases there is organic disease of the heart and stomach, but Apocynum, with diuretics, has kept down the effusion now for a year, and both are still alive. In post-scarlatinal dropsy or simple, uncomplicated albuminuria, Apocynum often proves promptly curative. It will not cure Bright's disease, but does often keep down the dropsy caused by that disease for a long while. I have seen several cases of hydrocephalus reported as cured by this remedy, in doses of 1 ℥ of the infusion every three hours. In nasal catarrh, where the mucous membrane of the nose is dry at first, then followed by a discharge of thick mucus, this is a good remedy, and it may be used in the form of a snuff, by triturating the bark of the root with sugar of milk, 1 part to 2 or 3 parts of the sugar of milk. And at the same time the tincture may be taken in doses of 5 gtts. every three hours in the day. It is a remedy for diabetes insipidus, at-

tended with great debility. One writer recommends it in uterine hemorrhage, but I have never used it for that affection. One writer recommends it in hæmoptysis, and says it succeeded with him after other remedies failed. He used a diluted tincture, in small doses, repeated every few minutes. I have succeeded with it in the removal of dropsical effusion from the cavities and cellular tissue more certainly than with any other one remedy. If I had space I could detail many grave cases of dropsy cured with this remedy. I generally associate it with other good diuretics; such as *Polytrichum Juniperum*, *Pepsissawa*, *Actinomeris Helianthoides*, and sometimes with *Digitalis*, so as to remove the effusion quickly, then give this article, alternated with *Helonias* and *Iron* to enrich the blood, and thereby prevent the re-accumulation of serum in the blood, which is the way to cure this disease.

VALEDICTORY.

BY A. S. COOK.

Gentlemen of the Faculty of the California Eclectic Medical College:

ON behalf of the class who have to-night received at your hands the honors of graduation, I will say that the hour in our history as students under your tuition has at last come when we are to cross out over the threshold of this our *Alma Mater*, and say to you and to these associations—Farewell!

And though ardent in our desires to take our appointed places in the ranks of suffering humanity, yet we go forth from your presence with a spirit that takes the tinge and weight of melancholy; resting

“ . . . as a cloud along the sky,
A darkening mist,”

on all our hearts.

Our relations with you have been both pleasant and profitable. Under your fostering care we feel that we have risen to the fullest stature possible for us as pupils to attain. What we have not accomplished with you, we are confident would have been beyond our reach with others.

We are satisfied far less with ourselves than with those

whose impress of noble scientific thought we bear with us into the weary watches and anxious struggles of the future, as the seal of our worth, and of our power in the alleviation of the pains and infirmities of our fellow-men.

Gentlemen, the seminal truths which you have here so faithfully scattered, shall by and by, I trust, spring up and ripen into fruits in the works, at least, of some of us, which shall not only inspire you in all future labor, but which shall gladden those to whom we go on our errands of benevolent ministry. And now, fellow-students, it becomes me, perhaps by virtue of the duty assigned me, to address a few words to you on this important occasion; you particularly who with me are about to retire from these associations, and to enter into others in which our present relations of labor are to become entirely changed—changed from that of the pupil to that of the teacher and master.

We stand here to-night in this presence as peers in our profession, and on the very threshold of a new, earnest, and laborious theater of action. We each of us go out from beneath the shadow of these ever memorable walls, equally prepared, no doubt, to discharge the high and important trusts awaiting us in the peculiar line of our work. And here the question naturally arises: shall we remain peers down through all the coming periods of our professional history? Shall we ever be found in the hour of imaginary roll-call, standing as now abreast, each advanced to a common line of progress in his or her profession, and in the dignity and honor of true manhood and of true womanhood? I answer, yes! if, indeed, we each so determine. Equal industry in our professional work, equal moral fidelity in our discharge of duty, and equal aspiration in reaching the grander altitudes of scientific attainment, will secure to us equal results in our several fields of labor.

These are the potentialities by which we may conquer success, may win for ourselves independence and self-satisfaction, if not personal distinction. And with this certain promise, shall we not at this initial moment make pledge that neither

indolence, infidelity, nor indifference, shall ever cast their shadows across our pathways? That no word or symbol shall ever blazon our banners but that one single word of victory, "Excelsior!"

Have we not sufficient incentive to thus commence our march up the slopes of the future? Have we not espoused the noblest profession within the range of human ambition? Is there anything more holy than to still the trembling nerve, to touch with healing finger the aching muscle, to drive back with magic hand the tides of dissolution, and to set into normal play the functions of impaired organism? The advocate at the bar may aid in the conflicts of inflamed passion, or in the antagonisms between a doubtful right and wrong. The theologian may labor with uncertain effort to inspire and to establish reform, applying intangible remedies that too often dissipate as do the twilight and the mists of the morning. The metaphysician may strive to solve the impracticable problems of life, of motion, and of matter. But ours is a work that lies above and beyond all these—beyond the selfishness, the greed, the debasing, beyond the dogmas of church, of state, or of philosophy, over into that vast realm of diseased mind and of stricken body,—that realm of anguish and of tears, where drop the mournful draperies of failing energy, of expiring hope, and of pulseless beauty. This is our field, along whose solemn pathways we have chosen to tread through all our future. And this being so, shall we not believe, that we in fact, are to stand nearer the source of life than do all others of professional labor? That by virtue of our ministry, we are to have placed into our keeping the very destiny even of multitudes of our fellow-men? And with these trusts imposed, what, I ask, are to be our responsibilities? Will they not be commensurate with our opportunity and ability to alleviate and to restore, and with the privileges which we shall still enjoy to prepare for the further and proper discharge of these sacred trusts?

Surely, fellow class-mates, we are to-night assuming obligations of no unimportant a character,—obligations over the

assumption of which the most daring of us may well ponder and hesitate.

And in our ministrations to the physical, do we find the ultimate of duty involved? Are we not by virtue of our office and our trusts holding the key to that mystic door that opens in upon the infinite sympathies and emotions of the human soul? Can any doubt our sovereignty and our privilege here? And with this power, shall we not violate a trust if we fail in the opportune moment to turn back these secret bolts and seek to awaken the moral as well as to arouse and to call back into normal action the forces of the physical? Surely none of us can doubt our duty in this line of professional privilege and power.

And, fellow-students, does even all this complete the circle of our work? Is there not still remaining an important part yet to perfect before our mission will assume that symmetry of form which shall give beauty, strength, and character to the whole.

Fortunately we belong to that school around which gather the prejudices and enmity of the self-crowned, the self-ordained,—those whose official authority and significance are chiefly embodied in well-rounded and masterly script, skillfully traced on immaculate parchment, whose musty odors assure us of a genuine line of descent from the vast antique, even from the period of the Asclepidea, when blood “had no fluxion,—was a silent, sluggish tide in formless channels of the vascular; when arteries, veins, nerves, and tendons were one and the same in the mind of the learned professor.”

Because we belong to a line of revolutionists in the interest of rational science and of the suffering millions, denying allegiance to the Hierarchy of Allopathy and respect for the dead formulas of a dead past, we are misrepresented, maligned, and assaulted in a spirit which borders upon the malicious if not the utterly barbarous.

But conscious of the verity of the axioms and principles of the fathers of our faith, as well as of the sanctity and scope of our great work, we cannot afford to stop in the processes of

our earnest labor to indulge in polemic or oral disputations, unless, indeed, this be with those who shall not forget the proprieties of respectable controversy. To attempt a self-defense in the spirit and language resorted to by some of our antagonists, would cause upon our part a serious loss of self-respect and of consequent worth and influence. Let the coarsely minded, the mentally and professionally impaired, resort to the vulgar and vehement in their jealous assaults, in order to sustain and perpetuate their infirm and declining system of medical treatment if they will, but we cannot. This is not our policy. Truth needs no defense but her own exemplifications. In her silent work lies potentialities mightier than armies. Christianity lifted no bayonets, but silently worked out by quiet and unostentatious word and personal exemplification her great problems of spiritual and moral philosophy, and yet the whole Pagan world with its barbarisms, its civilizations, its philosophies, its legions and its empires, finally fell at her feet; and so shall that great ideal of medical science, "Eclecticism," taking root and inspiration in the grand intellectual and philosophic incarnations of the past and present, finally brings to its feet, overcome and annihilate, all other systems of kindred nature and aim; even that one, over whose ancient and ostentatious archways is still seen in dim and almost obliterated chiselings, "Æsculapius."

And now let me inquire what is "Eclecticism," that generic name under which we go forth in the interests of humanity, to overcome and to rule in the world of medical science? Do we not find the answer in the etymological meaning of the word—To select, to search out and to adopt "the best?" And does not this definition indicate an advanced stage of scientific research, and infer decay of old thought and formula from which progressive mind struggles for emancipation?

"Eclectic," with the old Pharisaic medical schoolmen is a word of reproach, as has been the name of every principle of reform with the blind conservative from the time the Judean Pharisee reproached the philosophy of the Gentile Nazarene to the present hour. Yes, the wise (?) and progressive (?)

Allopath turns with contempt from the Eclectic; and yet was not Plato and Aristotle in philosophy; Gallileo, Copernicus and Kepler in astronomy; Wycliffe, Huss and Luther in theology; Dante, Milton and Tasso in poetry; Beethoven, Mozart and Gibbon in music; and such as Boerhaave, Suydenham and Cullen in medicine, Eclectics in the true and analytical meaning of the word? Have they not become immortal by searching out seminal truths, and rearing thereon their splendid creations of genius?

Is not then "Eclecticism" a part or feature of that eternal and irresistible principle,—Evolution?—that principle by which all things of entity, from the simple atom to the cycling star, from the lowest form of organic life to that of the loftiest of the angelic, have been brought forth? Does it not in its aims and processes seek to cast off the exuviae—the decayed thought of past ages, and to evolve from dying wombs a stronger, a grander, and a more beautiful force? Metcalf said: "No system of medicine has ever maintained its credit over fifty years. Like the house in the parable that was built upon the sand, they have all been defective at the foundation, and not being able to uphold the superstructure, they have gradually crumbled away, to be replaced by others destined to share the same fate."

However much of truth there may be in this, it certainly cannot apply to Eclecticism, for the reason that Eclecticism is in constant growth; is the "Becoming" and is to be, until progress ceases to mark the steps of its march on the parallels of time. No fetters of fixed formula, dogma, or tradition, bind or restrain it in any of its functions. 'Tis a force that was in the beginning, and has been and is to be until the last tear has dropped and the last agony suffered. It is ever on the alert for "the best." "The fittest only survive" is one of its fundamental axioms.

The antique and mouldy-wigged Allopath, however, not only guards with jealous and blear-eyed care the lame, the halt, and the blind, if only of its own, as the very ideal of the most "fit" and the beautiful, but combats and persecutes for

thirty years the great discoverer of the circulation of the blood, and for twenty-five years the equally illustrious discoverer of vaccination—rebellious disciples of Allopathic dogma and formula—while the disciples of Eclecticism rally with alacrity around the Harveys, the Jenners, and the Hunters, anxious for the sake of humanity to receive from the lips of these messiahs of science and of exalted genius, the new-born truth in the very blush of revelation.

Lord Bacon said: "Medicine is a science more professed than labored, and yet more labored than advanced; the latter having been in my judgment rather in circle than in progression, for I find much iteration, but small addition."

Whewell, in his Bridgewater Treatises, says in substance the same, both designing, of course, the application for the Allopath; for here it is especially, that the personality of a great Hierarchy of assumed science treads the endless "rounds" of an unbroken circle from era to era, from epoch to epoch, as did the believers in the epicycles and defferents of Ptolemy.

Dogma here is as fixed as it was with the mediæval church. Only after the fires of persecution have been trodden down and smothered beneath the feet of the armies of truth, does their old organization of fossilated thought of dogma in *bas relief*—yield to the logic of imperial fact, and then only with the reluctance of stubborn stupidity.

Our faith is steadily and surely widening its boundaries and increasing in intensity and force. What was but a little time ago only a star in the East, is now a blazing sun marching upward towards the zenith.

True, as an organization, we do not, as we shall yet, count among our nurseries of instruction our Oxfords, our Harvards, or our Yales, nor among our training-schools a Guy, Des Invalides, nor a St. Joseph's, still in all these do we find minds inspired with our truths, hearts full of latent rebellion, waiting only for the spark to explode the magazine, or for the moral courage to break away from the cold embrace of a breathing corpse. But now that our principles have become embodied in definite form, and our rights recognized in defi-

nite statute, all these auxiliaries will, as a necessity, come in the fullness of time. Like that of all reforms, our progress, it is true, until up to a comparatively late period, has been slow. Now, however, that the popular mind is awakening to the great truths we promulgate, and to the superior merit of our methods of treatment, we are beginning to assume that importance that attaches to success, and to a recognition of that fullness of power which inately belongs to the "fittest," whether in the realm of the conscious or of the instinctive. And to presume that Eclecticism, in all the branches of medical science, will not in the near future become the dominating system, is to presume that the hypothesis of evolution is without foundation, that the "fittest" shall not survive,—shall take hold upon the most persistent and potential, with no firmer grasp than upon the most frail and impotent.

Great truths are always slow in winning their way to permanent empire. Their roots must first strike deep into the soil of popular thought, below the superstitions and prejudices of education, before their branches shall spread and give broad shadow and protecting shelter.

The Reformation was centuries in reaching its period of culmination. Wycliffe, Huss, Jerome of Prague, and others, had to appear and blaze for a time, and then to disappear from the religious heaven, before the dial of Time could strike to awaken the Monk of Erfarth.

More than eighteen hundred years have elapsed since the advent of Christianity, the reign of which is to be co-equal with that of all the ages, and yet we even now are only in the midst of a splendid barbarism. Both Christianity as a great underlying principle, and the Reformation as a local outburst or special manifestation of that principle, had each their heralds or forerunners, as do all great truths or reforms.

And has not "Eclecticism" in medical science, too, had its forerunners or heralds? Do we not hear in the profound and yet rebellious utterances of Boerhaave, Suydenham, Harvey, Vesalias, Servetus, Bichot, Jenner, Cullen, Hunter, and others, unconscious prophecies of this very glorious hour of Medical

Eclectics? Can we believe that these great thinkers did not in their contemplations of discovery, of progress, and of reform, like the prophet, catch glimpses in their visions down the future, of even this grand response of Eclectic revelation? They could not, it is true, localize the apparition that symbolized this scene in the grand procession of Eclectic reform, yet we nevertheless were one of those resplendent groups that passed before them in prophetic review down the mighty corridors of Time. So then, let us as Eclectics, feel that we are indeed but priests and priestesses of science in the true line of ordination; that we are indeed of the prophetic, of a wise and benignant Providence sent to break the fetters of tradition, of dogma and of ignorance, that humanity with free limb and function may the better fulfill the lofty mission given it here to do.

But propriety dictates to me conclusion. Before closing, however, I beg to say to you, ladies and gentlemen, who have honored us this evening with your attention, that, though we are fully conscious of standing on the true line of medical progress, yet be assured your presence here inspires us to greater resolution and to greater confidence in our profession, a work in which you are one and all deeply interested,—a work that seeks to emancipate you from the superstitions of past ages, and to throw about you forces that shall soften your anguish, heal your infirmities, and keep strong the vital springs of your being, and give you a more certain promise of gathering, in an advanced autumn, the beautiful and ripe of the “sere and yellow leaf.” And now to one and all we say—Farewell!

“Farewell! word of sundering ties;—
Echoing wail of sorrowing harp;—
Voice of Destiny from unknown shores,
Trembling on reluctant, pallid lips,
Thou comest here to us to-night
With all thy tearful mysteries,
To sound the knell of friendship’s parting:
Endless, it may be, as pulse of time.
To some, thou comest with hidden seal,
In which is writ—Eternity;
To others, with seal in which is traced
The quickly speeding month or year.

And yet to all thou bringest tears
 That fall as sacramental dew
 On all these memories of friend,
 Of midnight lamp, of classic shade,
 and all here,
 Where bright-eyed Genius lifts her face
 Towards blazing sun and twinkling star,
 In patient waiting for the sign
 Of inspiration from afar."

And now, once more to one and all we say—Farewell!

WHAT WE ARE MADE OF.

BY. S. H. POTTER, M. D., HAMILTON, OHIO.

It is useful and instructive to understand the elementary constituents of our bodies, whether we make medicine our profession, or only try to become well informed—which is the duty of every one. If the body of an adult person of medium size, weighing 154 pounds, could be subjected to chemical analysis, the result would be nearly as follows, if written in the usual manner:—

	lbs.	oz.	grs.
Oxygen.....	111	0	0
Carbon.....	21	0	0
Hydrogen.....	14	0	0
Nitrogen.....	3	8	0
Phosphorus.....	1	12	190
Calcium.....	2	2	0
Sulphur.....	0	2	219
Chlorine.....	0	2	47
Flourine.....	0	2	0
Sodium.....	0	2	100
Potassium.....	0	0	290
Iron.....	0	0	100
Magnesium.....	0	0	12
Silicon.....	0	0	2
	—	—	—
	154	00	000

The hydrogen and oxygen are mostly combined in the body, forming water, of which compound there is about 111 pounds. The calcium and phosphorus exist mainly in the

bones; the carbon is mostly found in the fat; the other minerals are mainly in the blood and juices of the flesh. This statement approximates near enough to the truth for all practical purposes, although not strictly accurate. There is one very essential element which is found associated with iron in the blood, which is not given in the "analysis," that is manganese, which has been strangely overlooked by animal chemists until quite recently, the precise amount of which is undetermined. We have also creatine, creatinine, osmazome, etc., not classed.

The metals exist combined with other substances, or else in the form of salts—all vital to the economy. Of phosphate of lime there are 5 pounds, 1 pound of the carbonate of lime, 3 ounces of the fluoride of calcium, $3\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of common salt, and all fill important offices in our construction. Not one of them, even the small amount of the 100 grains of iron, must be allowed to lessen in quantity below the normal standard. If the iron becomes reduced only ten per cent. the person looks paler, the system is sensibly affected, and the strength enfeebled. If the lime is diminished, the bones soften and become crooked or misshapen; if salt is withheld, the appetite and digestion are impaired, and the bloods suffer; if phosphorus, which exists in the bones, brain, etc., is sparingly furnished, the powers of the mind are weakened, it fails, and idiocy may result. This complete machine—our body—is exquisitely sensitive to every chemical reaction going on within and around it.

The about fourteen gallons of water the body contains is the normal amount essential to health, and must necessarily find its way in the system in sickness and in health, as fast as it is eliminated, which is ordinarily at the rate of about six pints each day, or we must soon die of thirst. A much larger amount is thrown out if excessive heat or undue exercise cause us to sweat freely; and a corresponding increase of the supply of water is imperiously required. Fevers and inflammatory diseases were greatly aggravated and protracted, and thousands lost their lives by the popular practice of refus-

ing water in such cases, until comparatively a very recent period. The necessary liquid finds its way into the body mainly through food and drink. A proper degree of humidity of the atmosphere is essential to healthy respiration, and some is absorbed by the lungs and skin. More than one-half we eat and drink is really water. No other substance remains unchanged after we swallow it. The terribly destructive influence of vital chemical action effects the dissolution of all other substances, and they are sundered and separated; from their elements new compounds are formed of strange and complex natures. But water flows through our life as it flows from the quiet meadow spring or the mountain cataract, unchanged and unchangeable, save in its physical condition. It holds in solution all the nutrient and effete principles, which enter into and are ejected from the body; and is the medium through which it is continually built up with new material, and by which useless rubbish is washed away. Life and death alike are dependent upon its agency. It is more potent than the mineral acids; it is the common solvent of organic nature.

The one pound and three-fourths of phosphorus is one of the most important elements of the body. Any lack of the proper quantity in the bones—the frame-work upon which man is built, the origin of all the nerves which are the medium of all thought, sensation, action, sympathy, and all the functions of the animal economy—would prove disastrous to these important structures. Its employment, therefore, as a remedy in osseous and neuralgic diseases, is of the first importance.

From what do our bodies obtain all these extraordinary metal and mineral substances diffused through them? None of our food contains phosphorus, lime, magnesium, iron, etc., in their isolated form. But in this food, combined in its elements, these minerals exist, constituting a portion of the materials of its structure. The wheat of which our bread is made and the potatoes we relish so well, respectively contain $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ of an ounce of these minerals in every pound of the

same. Fruits—apples, peaches, pears, strawberries, etc., all luscious and good; vegetables, as lettuce, cabbage, onions, beets, etc., also contain their share of them. Beef, and other meats, so necessary in proper quantities, for winter diet, contain about four pounds of minerals in every one hundred. In these juices there exists crystallizable agents of a curious character, an alkaline reaction, which unites with the acids of the fruits and vegetables we eat, to form salts of these minerals. These remarkable agents are osmazome, creatine, creatinine, etc., which, though we do not know where to class them, are of the highest importance in building up and nourishing our bodies.

Thus it is seen that the discoveries of modern animal chemistry no longer allow armies and navies to become disabled and decimated by scurvy and other diseases, nor the living bodies of the men to dissolve upon a full supply of beef and pork; but they have taught them also the value of vegetables and fruit. Nor will old foggy doctors be longer allowed to starve tender innocents by thousands, on a diet of corn starch and arrow root, now that the people have learned that their food must contain all the elements of their structures.

In the case of a deficiency of minerals in our bodies, only a part of them may be supplied by giving these substances as remedies, but there are others which can only enter through the food. Salt, iron, lime, phosphorus, etc., are efficient medicines; the first is a direct tonic; the others in various well-known compounds. But if lime or phosphorus compounds are needed, unbolted wheat bread would furnish these remedies in the natural way. The covering of the wheat contains these elements richly stored, and it is wrong to sift it out and cast it away, depriving ourselves of just what we need most.

When patients suffer from deficient nutrition, the extract of beef, made by evaporating the juices is the proper diet. In these cases there is a deficiency of minerals in the blood. Every 100 pounds of dry beef extract contain 21 pounds of the most important agents needed in the animal economy.

CASCARA SAGRADA.

THE bark of *Rhamnus Purshiana*. Nat. ord. *Rhamaceæ*. *Cascara Sagrada* is a shrub, about fifteen to twenty feet high, which grows in California, principally in Mendocino county, extending northward to the British boundary, yet it grows in some abundance on the entire length of our Pacific coast. It has elliptical alternate leaves, obtuse at the base, denticulate, and somewhat pubescent beneath, from two to seven inches long, and from one to three inches wide. The flowers are in axillary clusters, sepals five, petals, miniate, cucullate. The fruit is a black berry, three celled and three seeded. The bark is collected in spring from young branches. In its crude state, the bark is about one-sixteenth of an inch thick. The outside bark is grey with large brown blotches, the inner surface is a dull yellow, while the central portion is of a bright orange-yellow. It has scarcely any odor, but has a bitter taste. The bark was analyzed by Albert B. Prescott in 1880. It contains a brown resin, having a very bitter taste, sparingly soluble in water, scarcely in ether, but soluble in alcohol, chloroform, benzole and bisulphide of carbon, also soluble in caustic alkaline solutions, imparting a purple-red color to them. Acid will precipitate it. A red resin, that is nearly tasteless, insoluble in water, a little soluble in ether, carbon bisulphide, and benzole, but soluble in alcohol, dilute alcohol, and caustic alkaline solutions. Alkalies impart to the solution of this resin a brown coloration. It contains besides the two resins mentioned, another light yellow one; a concentrated solution of this resin deposits on cooling pale yellow granules, that give a negative result with the general test for alkaloides. The bark contains also a crystallizable body, that may be obtained by dissolving alcohol extract, previously exhausted by ether in water, precipitate this body by acetate lead, then the washed and drained precipitate is dissolved in stronger alcohol; remove the lead with sulphurated hydrogen, filter, the filtrate is evaporated till a film forms on the top, then set aside to cool. Upon cooling it deposits crys-

tals that belong to the trimetric system. After the sulphurated hydrogen has disappeared, a distinct odor of garlic is perceptible. The crystals sublime at a temperature a little above the boiling point; the sublimate is semi-crystalline. The bark contains a peculiar variety of tannin that gives a brown, greenish reaction with ferrie salt, oxalic and malic acid, fixed and volatile oil, and starch.

The recent introduction of Cascara Segrada into the literature of materia medica places it among the list of new remedies. Dr. J. H. Bundy of Oakland, California, was the first to call the attention of the Profession to the medicinal properties of this bark. The physiological action of this drug requires further elucidation.

The medicinal properties of Cascara are peculiar and valuable. It does not, as many cathartics, produce pain; it seems to have a stimulating action on the secretions of the liver and bowels. It has chiefly been used for habitual constipation and dyspepsia with surprising effect. It has also been found useful in dysentery and chronic diarrhoea. Dose—As a laxative a half teaspoonful twice a day of the fluid extract, or thirty grains of the bark; as a cathartic one drachm; for constipation and dyspepsia 15 grains four times a day, ext. Rhamnus Purshiana fld. 16 troy oz. of the bark, moisten this with a mixture of alcohol 8 oz., glycerine 3 oz., water 5 oz. Place this in a percolater and pour the remainder of the mixture on and macerate the whole for twenty-four hours, then displace it with dilute alcohol until exhausted. The first 12 oz. are reserved and the weaker portion evaporated spontaneously to 4 oz.; mix this to the 12 oz. first obtained. The extract should be prepared without the slightest application of heat.

Tincture Rhamnus Purshiana.

2 oz. of the bark are percolated with dil.

Alcohol until 16 oz. of percolate is obtained.

Syrup Rhamnus Purshiana.

Ext. Rhamnus Pursh., ʒij.

Syrup simplex, ʒxiv.

MIX

Elix. Cascara Sagrada,
Ext. Cascara Sagrada fld.,
Ext. Cocoa Bean,
Tr. Cardamon seed of each, ʒij ,
Ammoniacal glycyrrhizin, ʒ ss ,
Simple elixir enough to make OI.
Elix. Cascara Sag. commpt.,
Ext. Cascara Sagrada fld.,
Ext. Cocoa bean of each, ʒij ,
Ext. Belladonna, fld. ʒj ,
Citrate Strychnia, gr. j,
Tr. Cardamon seed, ʒiv ,
Ammoniacal glycyrrhizin, ʒ ss ,
Simplex elixir enough to make a OI.

—*H. F. Vortkamp, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

EDITORIALS.

MEDICINE AS AN ART, AND AS A SCIENCE.

UNDER two relations is the study of medicine prosecuted—as a Science and as an Art. Medicine as a Science, when naturally considered, takes cognizance of all that relates to our knowledge of diseases; and especially, of the circumstances under which they become developed, of the conditions of their existence, of their nature and of their causes in the widest sense of these terms. When considered as an Art, its object is to distinguish, prevent, and to cure disease. Several branches of knowledge are combined in the constitution and elucidation of the Science; and the practice of Medicine as an Art ought to be founded on principles and facts of universal, or at least of extensive applicability. A consideration of the different topics which together make up the Science of Medicine, suggests a division of the subject into the following departments, as follows: 1. Physiology, which embraces the study of the healthy functions of which the human body is

the seat. 2. Pathology, subdivided into *Special Pathology* and *General Pathology*, which together embrace a consideration of everything relative to the existence and nature of diseases. 3. Therapeutics, which expounds the various actions of remedies upon the diseased economy, or the means by which nature may be aided in her return to health. 4. Hygiene, which embraces a consideration of the means of preventing disease, or of preserving health. These departments are all preliminary subjects of study, and constitute a necessary and appropriate introduction to the practice of Physic, in which *Special Pathology* and the treatment of special diseases are the leading topics of consideration.

Each of these departments has grown or expanded itself into a great branch of science, and any single section is sufficient of itself to occupy the lifetime of an individual in working out and studying it in detail. It is, therefore, not possible for the human mind to embrace all of these departments in their whole extent or relations to each other; and, setting aside the consideration of theories and systems, it has been truly observed, that no man possesses all the pathological knowledge contained in the records of his art, and it is, therefore, far less possible to embrace in any single treatise a view of the Science of Medicine in all of these departments. For the purpose of teaching the Science of Medicine in its application to practice, its elementary principles, as developed in the departments of Pathology, are the most useful guides to the student. An inquiry into the nature of disease embraces a consideration of the following facts: 1. The accurate observation and correct registration of facts in Pathology. On the efficiency of the machinery devised for these important ends will rest our power, to curb the invasion of our science by the guess-work of theory. Such records must be the means eventually of rooting out the traditional errors which so largely pervade medical literature. 2. Descriptive Pathology, embracing *general* and *special* Pathology. *Special* Pathology is intended to comprehend a consideration of the essential nature and origin of particular diseases as they occur

in man and animals, and general Pathology to include those more general facts or principles which result from a comparison of particular diseases with each other. Although Special Pathology comes first in the order of Nature, yet, wherever the arrangements for Medical education are complete, General Pathology is taught as an introduction to, or conjointly with, the special study of diseases, just as in other sciences: for example, in Chemistry it is found convenient to give a general view of the principles which have been established by experiment and observation, before entering upon the particular details of the science. All theory in Medicine; all descriptive Pathology; all grounds for rational speculation regarding the nature of diseases, and for the framing of experiments, as well as all maxims of practice which aim at the prevention or cure of diseases, must rest ultimately on observed and recorded facts.

Accuracy of observation is, therefore, the first lesson the student has to learn in all methods of investigation, and the lesson is one of paramount importance. 3. Speculative Pathology assumes that we know what a disease is—that we know the effects it produces—that we know the conditions necessary for its existence—that we know its relations to other diseases. 4. Pathology dictates the maxims of rational practice. It is in the nature of the science of Pathology that it always ought to be in advance of our certain knowledge regarding the treatment of disease. It is the basis of rational medicine; for it is rational to know the nature of a disease, in order, First, to enable us to prevent it; Second, to understand the principles which ought to guide us in the management of it. Such are the main divisions which the province of Pathology embraces.

THE annual meeting of the Nebraska State Eclectic Medical Association meets at Wahoo, Nebraska, on June 9th, and will be in session two days. It is desired that all members of the Association should be present. An invitation is extended to all liberal physicians throughout the State.

R. S. GRIMES, M. D., *Secretary*.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 1, 1881.

Editors of California Medical Journal,—

DEAR SIRS: The second annual meeting of the Alumni Association of California Medical College occurred Friday, April 29, 1881, at College Hall. There were a number of the old members absent; all the last graduating class were present and joined the Association.

The By-Laws were amended in several places. One amendment read as follows: Art. V., Sec. I. At the death of any member in good standing in this Association, each member shall pay five (\$5.00) dollars into the Treasury; said money is to be paid to the legal heir or heirs of the deceased member.

Sec. II. All members failing to pay their dues after sixty (60) days written notice, forfeit all the benefits of this Association while he or she is in arrears.

The following is the list of officers for the ensuing year: President, J. P. Schmitz, M. D., San Francisco, Cal.; Vice-President, J. W. Thomas, M. D., Oakland, Cal.; Secretary, J. A. McKee, M. D., San Francisco, Cal.; Treasurer, A. S. Cook, M. D., San Francisco, Cal.; Board of Censors—C. E. Case, M. D., Oakland, Cal.; J. P. Webb, M. D., Oakland, Cal.; H. M. Logan, M. D., St. Helena, Cal.

THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL COLLEGE, OAKLAND.

THE commencement exercises of the California Medical College took place at the College Hall, April 20, 1881. It was the termination of its second year. Hundreds were present and hundreds were obliged to go away, as they could not even gain access to the hall. Eleven graduates occupied the front row of seats awaiting the moment when the magic words would give them all the rights and privileges that accompany the degree of doctor of medicine.

Mr. Lust and Miss Andrews furnished the music for the evening.

Rev. Dr. Guirey opened the exercises by prayer.

The President, D. MacLean, conferred the degree of M. D. on the following graduates:

A. S. Cook, J. W. Thomas, J. P. Webb, M. H. Logan, J. P. Schmitz, E. F. J. M. Lomax, J. A. Martin, M. H. Schulz, J. G. Murrell, S. M. Meeker, A. N. Avery.

Prof. D. MacLean delivered the address in behalf of the faculty, giving excellent advice throughout the entire discourse. In every line, as you will see by carefully reading the article, is liberality and eclecticism. He censures other schools for lying, advises the students to be free from prejudice, "Read all works and glean from every source." "The fact that you are eclectic physicians," the doctor continues, "should guarantee that you are better informed than any class of physicians who are trammelled and bound by arbitrary codes." He appeals to the doctors to "always remember the poor," to always be careful and not drift into vulgar mannerisms, that "pills and powders must not take the place of good breeding and good manners."

The doctor in his discourse makes one statement, that no Allopath in an address ever made: "There are noble hearts and liberal minds in all schools."

Doctor A. S. Cook in behalf of the class, delivered the valedictory, made comparisons and contrasts one school with another. In his address one might infer that the "self crowned, self ordained," were not the pinnacles for liberal minds to worship. As his address can be seen on the pages of this journal, we will let the reader judge as to its properties.

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL COLLEGE.

INTERMEDIATE TERM.

THIS term will commence the first Monday in June and continue three months. The instruction will be principally on those branches which are not taken up thoroughly during the regular term. Pathology, diagnosis, botany, nervous diseases, anatomy, dissections, etc., will receive special attention.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

DURING the annual meeting in December committees were formed to correspond with the various members of the society upon special subjects assigned them, and report the same in the CALIFORNIA MEDICAL JOURNAL. Although the report is not as complete as we would like, yet it is hoped that many who have not notified the committees of their intentions of reading papers, will be fully prepared on some of the various subjects.

The programme will be:—

1. Address by C. E. Case, M. D.
2. Transaction of business, essays and discussions.
3. Practice of medicine, and materia medica.
J. H. Bundy, M. D. ———
C. H. Houpt, M. D., Belladonna.
4. Surgery, Anatomy and Physiology.
D. D. Crowley, M. D., Fracture of the skull and its effects.
C. E. Case, M. D., Hydrocele.
W. R. F. Samuels, Tracheotomy.
5. Obstetrics and diseases of women.
J. S. Coleman M. D., Hysteria.
J. B. Backesto, M. D., Ovarian abscess.
D. MacLean, M. D., Chloral hydrate in labor.
6. Chemistry and medical jurisprudence.
C. C. Mason, M. D., ———
C. Campbell, Insanity.
7. Diseases of children.
J. C. Backesto, M. D.
8. Diseases of the brain and nervous system.
D. MacLean, Myelitis.
M. Herzstein, Cerebral localization.
9. Diseases of the eye and ear.
S. L. Blake, ———.
J. A. McKee, Catarrh of middle ear.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS, ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

At a meeting of the above Board held at College Hall, Oakland, May 12, 1881, the following were granted licenses to practice medicine in the State of California:—

A. S. Cook, M. D.; Jennie P. Webb, M. D.; J. A. Martin, M. D.; M. H. Logan, M. D.; Max H. Schulz, M. D.; J. G. Murrell, M. D.; Adaline N. Avery, M. D.; J. W. Thomas, M. D.; S. M. Meeker, M. D. One applicant was permitted to withdraw his application and one applicant is to be cited to appear before the Board at their next regular meeting and show cause why a license should not be refused him on the ground of unprofessional conduct.

CHAS. H. HOUP, M. D.

Secretary Bd. of Examiners, E. M. S. O. of Cal.

SELECTIONS.

HEADACHE, AND THE REMEDIES PROPOSED.

BY PROF. GEO. B. GROFF, M. D., S. B.,

THERE is scarcely any other complication, to which the human system is heir, which causes the patient more continued misery, and the physician more annoyance and disgust with his powers of diagnosis, and with the workings of his remedies, than headache. The medicine which has been acting so nicely proves inert, and the patient suffers all his former torments unrelieved.

It has been thought that it would be of value to the young practitioner to present in one article all the remedies which have within recent years been found valuable in this complaint, that from them he may continue to select until he finds one adapted to his patient. With this view and hope the present article has been prepared.

Dr. Henry Hartshorne, in his "Essentials of the Principles and Practice of Medicine," says that pain in the head, cephalalgia, may be considered as depending essentially upon:—

“Neuralgia; rheumatism of the scalp; congestion of the brain; toxæmia (*e. g.* by narcotics, alcohol, etc.); fever (remittent, yellow, typhoid, etc.), chronic disease of brain (tumors, etc.); uterine irritation, etc.

“The distinction between these different forms of headache is by no means always easily made out. As a general statement it may be said that neuralgic headache is mostly on one side (hemicrania), and extends more or less to the face; it is usually accompanied, also, by sensitiveness of the scalp, and is shooting or darting in its character. Rheumatism of the head is attended by stiffness of the muscles which move the head from side to side. Congestive, febrile, and toxæmic headaches are accompanied by heat of the head and are throbbing or pulsating. That of uterine irritation is on the top of the head. The pain of chronic cerebral disease (tumors, etc.,) is commonly constant or periodic in one spot and is attended by some functional disorder of the brain.”

Although the physician will often be baffled in his search for a cause of headache in a patient, yet many causes will often be patent. One, especially in females, is constipation, by which habit the blood is poisoned and the nervous centers unbalanced. Irritating foods are a frequent cause of headache; all such should be avoided; gastric catarrh, irritability, acidity and flatulence are all excellently corrected by abstaining from food for one or more meals when headache is threatened. Acidity of stomach should be corrected by magnesia, soda bicarbonate, or blue pill. Impure gases in living rooms and bed-chambers, due to defective or insufficient ventilation, are constant causes of headache. Tumors in the brain, when suspected, should be treated with potassium iodide. Persons troubled with nervous or sick headache, should go to bed after drinking a cup of tea, and remain as quiet as possible. The remedies which follow, are, for headache, toxæmic and congestive, though they may be sometimes applicable in other cases.

In nervous headache, Dr. W. A. Hammond gives preference to the following drugs:—

Oxide of zinc, in pill, dose, two to five grains.

Nux vomica. Dose, one-fourth grain after meals, frequently best combined with iron and quinia, especially in chlorotic patients.

Bismuth subcarbonate and subnitrate may both be used in place of zinc oxide. Dose, two grains after each meal. It acts by allaying any gastric disturbance, and thus promotes digestion.

The bromides, especially bromide of potassium, are valuable in all cases of headache from nervous irritability; if one bromide does no good, try another. In cases of nervous exhaustion they often do harm.

Phosphorus is often found useful in cases of nervous headache. An excellent form is phosphoric acid, thirty drops, largely diluted, three times a day after eating, or phosphorus in pill, one-sixtieth grain, or the phosphide of zinc may be used in pill, one-tenth grain, three times a day; or phosphorus dissolved in ether, one-sixtieth grain. Arsenic is highly valued. An excellent preparation is Fowler's solution, five to ten drops after each meal.

Galvanism has in many cases been found to give relief; use the constant current and avoid too great intensity.

The solution of acetate of ammonia is unrivaled in treatment of nervous and sick headache. Dose, a teaspoonful or two, repeated every hour.

Morphia sulphate, one-fifth grain in a cup of coffee has been found to be an excellent occasional remedy for nervous headache of females, occurring about the menstrual epochs. It is unsafe for constant use. The acetate and muriate of morphia have a similar action and may be tried.

Hydrate of chloral has a transient effect in nervous headache, dose ten to twenty grains in peppermint water, or it may be applied locally, made into an ointment with lard; chloral seven parts, lard twenty-seven.

Butylchloral hydrate has lately been recommended for nervous headache in anæmic girls and women. It must be administered in glycerine or syrup strongly flavored with es-

sence of peppermint, or syrup of liquorice root, to cover up its bitter taste. Dose, one hundred grains*, quickly followed by a second and third dose.

Tea, coffee and Paraguay tea, from the contained caffeine, are found valuable in nervous headaches produced by cerebral congestion; hence, when the face is flushed they are indicated but when the face is pale and the pain is simple neuralgic, these substances seem to aggravate the trouble.

Two grains of citrate of caffeine, in capsule, taken every half hour, is said to be a very effectual remedy in nervous and sick headache, one or two doses usually being sufficient to give relief. It is seldom rejected by the stomach, but in some patients it produces sleeplessness. It is indicated in the cases mentioned as suitable for tea and coffee. The following is said to be frequently prescribed by Dr. W. W. Carpenter, for headache:

R Muriate ammonia, ʒ iij;
Acetate morphia, gr. j;
Citrate caffeine, grs. xxx;
Aromatic spirits ammonia, f ʒj;
Elixir of guarana, f ʒiv;
Rose water, f ʒiv;

M. Sig. Dose, dessert spoonful every ten or twelve minutes.

Monobromated camphor has been found valuable in headaches brought on by over-stimulation of the brain through study or excitement. Dose, two to five grains in sugar-coated pills.

Linden flowers in infusion, thirty to sixty grains of the flowers to a pint of water, is a common domestic remedy for nervous headache; it may be taken either cold or warm, whichever is the more agreeable. The linden trees are variously known as lime trees, bass-wood and whitewood; they are stately, noble trees. All species are valuable, both American and European.

Ammoniated tincture of valerian has been used in nervous

*This quantity is evidently an error. The dose of butylchloral (croton chloral) hydrate is from five to ten grains.

headache. Also the elixir of valerianate of ammonia. Dose, a fluid drachm. These are among the most reliable remedies for this troublesome affection.

Valerianate of zinc was formerly much praised for its influence over nervous headache, but is now only employed in cases of excitable or hysterical females.

On the authority of Schumacher, ergot is said to be valuable in cases of nervous headache or migraine. It is administered in powder, six grains a day, gradually increased to fifteen grains.

The inhalation of ether frequently relieves nervous headache.

In nervous headaches, faintness or drowsiness, the stimulating effects of strong vinegar or dilute acetic acid, are useful; the best results are obtained by snuffing the fumes and by placing a cloth wet with them upon that portion of the head in which the pain is most acute. The effect is increased by the addition of camphor and other aromatics.

The headache produced by quinia and iron is prevented when these medicines are combined with hydrobromic acid, a substance which appears to act upon the nervous system, much in the same way as does potassium bromide. The acid also prevents the tinnitus aurium, and disorders of vision, which often follow the continued use of large doses of quinine. Dose, thirty drops, diluted. Flavor with lemonade.

Headache depending upon acidity of the stomach is often relieved by carbonate of ammonia. It may be administered by inhalation and internally. Dose, two or three grains in water solution, with mucilage or sugar to destroy taste.

Aromatic spirit of ammonia is employed almost exclusively for the relief of headache and especially those forms depending upon acidity of the stomach and accompanied with flatulent eructations. It probably corrects the acidity and provokes the expulsion of the gases, and at the same time gently stimulates the nervous system in a manner which allays pain. Dose, thirty minims, diluted, repeated.

Nitrate of amyl has been found to relieve nervous head-

ache. Dose, three to five drops internally, taken in some aromatic spirit or by inhalation, about five drops being inhaled from the hand or handkerchief.

The delicate and refreshing perfume of orange flower water will be gratefully received by many afflicted with nervous or sick headache. It may be administered by inhalation or by the mouth.

Camphor water, in doses of a tablespoonful is valuable in nervous headache. Camphor may also be given in substance.

Many patients gratefully take peppermint water in doses of a tablespoonful or more for headache. It acts in the same manner as other diffusible and aromatic stimulants. An infusion of the fresh herb may also be administered, also the spirit.

For periodical headaches the sulphate of berberina has been found valuable. The dose is one to two grains dissolved in aromatic sulphuric acid, well diluted with water. Its efficacy seems to be due to its anti-periodic virtues.

Owing to its anesthetic properties the extract of cannabis indica has been tried with some success in cases of recurrent headache or migraine. In such cases it is recommended to take it habitually in doses of one-third of a grain twice a day, during the attacks to be increased to one-half grain or more. This remedy is said to be especially valuable in cases of hereditary headache, and is well worthy of trial in all these cases of "ever-living, never-ending, martyrdom-like suffering."

Berberina has been much praised for its control of periodical headaches. Dose, grains five to fifteen, gradually increased.

Guarana, in its control of headache, much resembles tea and coffee. It is especially valuable in the various forms of recurring nervous sick headache, especially in females at the menstrual periods and the headache which follows a debauch, when the head throbs and the eyes are bloodshot. It however soon loses its power in most cases; it is best administered in infusion or alcoholic extract. The elixir of guarana is an excellent preparation.

Primula officinalis, primrose, and *convallaria*, lily of the valley, (officinal parts, the roots) have been used as sternutatories for relief of headache, and they probably have some value.

Sneezeweed (*helenium autumnale*), a native plant of the natural order *compositæ*, has been used as an errhine in incipient coryza, and to relieve headache. The flowers and leaves are officinal and are administered in powder.

Exhaustion of Nervous System.—Valerianate of ammonia, in doses of two to ten grains, dissolved in water with some flavoring tincture continues to be administered with considerable success in nervous headache. It is most valuable when the nervous system is exhausted.

Valerianate of quinia has probably some value in sick headache.

In headache brought on by nervous exhaustion, cubebs, by stimulating the nervous centers, has been thought to be beneficial. The action of the drug is probably indirect, by improving the digestion and hence the blood. Dose, ten grains, in water with sugar or in wafers.

Local Applications.—Bisulphide of carbon, from its anæsthetic properties has been used as a local application in headaches. It is made into an ointment with from five to ten parts of lard.

Chloroform is also used topically and by inhalation. Covered with oiled silk it quickly blisters. It should always be inhaled by a patient when alone, with care, and always discontinued before insensibility is reached.

Oil of lavender may be used topically to calm nervous headache. It may be given internally in doses of four or five drops. Best administered in the simple or compound spirit of lavender.

Oil of peppermint was used by the ancient Romans, and from the remotest antiquity by the Chinese, as a local analgesic remedy. It is of special value in neuralgic headache. It should be applied on a saturated cotton compress, covered with a piece of oiled silk, waxed paper, or sheet caoutchouc

and placed over the supra-orbital, the temporal, or other nerve in which the pain is most severe. Frequently, merely painting the skin with the oil from a small brush or feather, will answer.

Oil of origanum may be used in the same way and for the same purpose as oil of peppermint.

Black pepper may be applied locally in the form of a plaster, for headache; and to improve the digestion and thus relieve headache. Dose, five grains, in pill.

Spirit of nitrous ether is recognized as a soothing application to the forehead, in cases of neuralgic headache. It should always be recently prepared, as old preparations, sometimes, when frequently applied, irritate the skin.

Spirit of lavender is an agreeable lotion for bathing the forehead in nervous headaches. Dose, internally, thirty minims, diluted.

Bay rum (spirit of myrica) is used in the same way as spirit of lavender, as a lotion.

Ginger for its rubefacient and anodyne qualities, is much employed in cataplasms and fomentations for the relief of headache. It is not without value.

Still other Remedies.—Dr. T. Lauder Brunton, editor of the *London Practitioner*, says: “The administration of a brisk purgative, or small doses of Epsom salts, three times a day, is a most effectual remedy for frontal headache, when associated with constipation; but if the bowels be regular the morbid processes on which it depends, seem to be checked, and the headache removed even more effectually by nitro-muriatic acid, diluted, ten drops in a wine-glass full of water; or, bicarbonate of soda, ten grains in water, before meals. If the headache be immediately above the eyebrows, the acid is the better; but if it is a little higher up, just where the hair begins, the soda seems to be the most effectual. The removal of headache invigorates the whole system.”

Tincture of nux vomica is given by Ringer, in drop doses every five or ten minutes for eight or ten doses, and then continued at longer intervals, for sick headache, accompanied by

acute gastric catarrh, whether due to error in diet, constipation, or no apparent cause.

An excellent local application is made of a quart of water, half pint of common salt, one ounce hartshorn and a half ounce of spirits camphor; mix and keep in a tightly corked bottle. Saturate a cloth and apply to seat of pain.

When the head is filled with blood and the temples throb, soak the feet in very hot water in which a spoonful of ground mustard has been stirred. In the same way use a salt foot-bath. The blood will be drawn from the head to the feet and relief obtained.

A tablespoonful of charcoal, powdered, stirred into a glass of water and drank at once is excellent in many cases of headache from sour stomach, flatulence, etc.

Digitalis, by moderating the heart's action, is often valuable in headache with cerebral congestion. Dose, one grain, in powder.

Oil of turpentine, in moderate doses, has been much praised as a remedy for headache.—*Physician and Surgeon.*

WASHING OUT THE STOMACH IN DILATATION OF THAT ORGAN.

THE value of washing out the stomach in the treatment of gastric dilatation is well shown by the following case, reported by Dr. James Russell in the *British Medical Journal*, February 26, 1881. A man, aged fifty years, began to suffer from pain in the right hypochondrium twenty years ago. It was chiefly produced by the presence of food, so that he avoided eating. He then vomited, or rather eructated, clear food, and in process of time began to throw up his food about three hours after a meal. He lost flesh considerably, and had to leave work. These symptoms persisted with varying severity through six years, when one night, without any further change having occurred of which he was sensible, he was awakened by something giving way within him in the hepatic region. A quarter of an hour afterward he vomited, without effort, about three pints of "thick, sticky, greenish"

pus. Regularly for the next month, on awakening in the morning, he rejected about half a pint of the same matter, and remained free during the rest of the day. This discharge began to lessen at the end of a month, but it continued for nine weeks longer in smaller quantities. Two years later the patient had a temporary return of the pain.

On his entrance into the Birmingham Hospital, the stomach reached half way between the umbilicus and pubes. Sarcinous matter was vomited. The man was thin, but not cachectic. There was no other physical sign of disease in the chest or abdomen. Washing out the stomach by means of the syphon-tube was commenced, and was continued daily, the patient falling into the use of the tube with great facility. The food was at first milk, but solids soon became necessary. During his residence in the hospital, his bowels acted quite regularly, and the stools were of perfectly natural quality. He continuously improved, and after several months had returned to ordinary diet.

When at home, however, he presumed too much on his improved condition, and neglected to wash out his stomach. There was a renewal of his former symptoms, and he returned to the hospital with an increased distension of his stomach. The same plan of treatment was again employed, and was attended with the same fortunate results.—*The Medical Record*.

THE GERMAN SURGICAL CONGRESS.

THE German Surgical Congress, which meets annually in Berlin, has just closed its session, and some report of its proceedings may be of interest.

The Congress, which continued four days, had morning sessions in Professor Langenbeck's beautiful new clinic, which has just been opened, and also in that of Professor Bardeleben, in the hospital La Charité, and afternoon sessions in a large hall of the University. The number in attendance upon the Congress was about three hundred, and among these were to be seen many of the most prominent men of Germany. Pro-

fessor Langenbeck was President of the Congress, and though past seventy, he still continues in active practice, superintending his clinic and attending to his many private patients. Though he shows his years, he still undertakes the most severe operations, and is doubtless the most beloved and honored surgeon of all Germany.

The programme pursued was to listen to and discuss papers, chiefly surgical. At the morning session at the hospital, patients treated by various surgeons were exhibited. These patients were not only those treated in the various hospitals of Berlin, but others brought from different cities.

One striking feature of the Congress was the number of papers presented by young men, chiefly by assistants in various hospitals, whereas many of the most noted men presented no papers themselves, but merely discussed those presented by their colleagues and their assistants. Though it would have been far more interesting at times to listen to the celebrated men whose words carry with them the authority of experience, still the encouragement and stimulus given to young men to carry on and make known their original investigations has often produced in Germany excellent results.

ABDOMINAL SURGERY.

The one theme which, perhaps, attracted more interest than any other was that of abdominal surgery in its various departments. Ovariectomy was little discussed, doubtless from the secure position to which it has attained among recognized operations, but the operations for the removal of wandering kidneys, the resection of portions of the intestine, and the amputation of the pylorus attracted much consideration.

The specimens of pylorus which have recently been resected by Professor Billroth, of Vienna, in three cases of cancer, were exhibited, and the method in which he performed the operation was demonstrated upon the cadaver by his first assistant, Dr. Mikulicz. Of the three cases operated upon up to this date, one has recovered and two have died. In the

discussion as to whether the catgut or silk ligatures and sutures should be used in abdominal surgery, some advocated one and some the other, and satisfactory reports were made of each method. An especially serious difficulty experienced by all operators upon the abdominal organs seemed to be to avoid the escape of any fecal matters into the abdominal cavity, and it is chiefly to infection that the dangers of these operations are assigned rather than to the difficult manipulation incident to operating, or the shock consequent upon opening the abdomen or the division of the alimentary canal.

TREATMENT OF SPINAL DISEASE.

Another subject which attracted much discussion was the old one of the treatment of spinal disease by the Sayer plaster jacket and the pliable felt corset. Several cases were exhibited where, after injuries to the spine and resulting paralysis of limbs, bladder and rectum, the patient had been treated by the application of a plaster or felt jacket, and great improvement had followed, paralysis of the bladder and rectum having disappeared, and the patient being able to walk with the jacket.

Professor Langenbeck said he always chloroformed the patient before applying the corset, that the muscles might be wholly relaxed, and used extreme caution lest serious or even fatal consequences might follow the suspension of the patient. He related a case in which a patient in his clinic had been suspended for application of the corset, in which there was sudden cessation of breathing, and though respiration was partially restored, the patient died in an hour, despite the performing of tracheotomy and artificial respiration.

General opinion seemed to favor the felt corset instead of the plaster jacket. The cases of burning of patients, which sometimes results from the overheating of the felt corsets in a gas oven, is avoided by Professor König by heating the corsets in an oven heated by hot water. He says since he has used the hot-water oven he has not burned a patient.

STITCHING OF ENDS OF DIVIDED NERVES.

The stitching together with catgut of the ends of divided nerves, and the stretching of nerves for various causes, was also discussed. A number of cases were exhibited in which section of a nerve had been followed by complete loss of sensation and motion. The ends of the nerve were united, and after a time sensation began to return. Motion began to return considerably later, as is always the case, but finally both were fully restored.

A series of experiments performed upon animals, by Dr. Gluck, Professor Langenbeck's first assistant, illustrated well the restorative power of nerves. He exhibited specimens taken from animals in which he had divided nerves, removing segments of varying length; others where, after removing a segment of a nerve, he had supplied the defect by a segment of nerve from a different animal, and still others where sections of nerve had been removed, allowed to remain for varying lengths of time in different fluids, and had then been restored to their place, and in all of these experiments upon animals he had secured regeneration of the part. Two cases of advanced tabes dorsalis, attended with excruciating pain, were exhibited, in which the sciatic nerve of one side had been stretched. One patient, who had been able to walk only with the greatest difficulty, two months after the operation was wholly free from pain, and could walk vastly better than before operation. Of course it was impossible to say how long this marked relief would continue, or what would result from the stretching of both sciatic nerves instead of one. Of about twenty cases of stretching of different nerves reported by our surgeon, no evil consequences had occurred, while another reported a case of complete and permanent paralysis resulting from stretching the sciatic.

RECURRENT TUMOR OF FOREHEAD.

Professor Langenback exhibited a patient upon whom he had several times operated for recurrent tumor of the forehead. In the last operation he had been obliged to chisel

away the entire thickness of the skull, exposing the dura mater, and he stated that he thought in the future we would come to remove portions of the skull when involved in tumors, and of the dura mater as well, if this were diseased. To prevent hemorrhage during operations on the scalp he applies an Esmarch bandage about the head, over the orbital ridges and beneath the occiput.

TREATMENT OF SOFT, FATTY TUMORS.

Dr. Schwalbe, of Madgeburg, described a method of treating telangiectasis, soft, fatty tumors, and even small hernia, by the injection of a fifteen to twenty per cent. solution of alcohol. By these injections, which in most cases he repeats perhaps twice a week, and for a prolonged interval if necessary, he has secured some excellent results. Perhaps the best example of this was that of an extensive telangiectasis of the face, which had resisted treatment by the Paquelin cautery. By repeated injections he had secured a gradual shrinkage and almost entire disappearance of the tumor. A vast number of other interesting cases were shown and subjects discussed. Among these it may be worth while simply to mention one in which the two segments of a fractured patella had been wired together, and the wire cut off short. The segments were apparently united by bone, and the wires were left in place, being entirely covered by integument.

Professor Hüter also illustrated his new method of resection of the tarsus by an anterior transverse incision. He identified the anterior tendons and nerve, divided them, and, after removal of the required bone, united them again, an operation from which he reported excellent results.

One of the closing acts of the congress was to vote a letter of congratulation to the Russian surgeon, Pirogoff, author of the noted operation which bears his name, in recognition of his worth as a surgeon, and of the fact that he has recently completed his fiftieth year of surgical service.—*The Medical Record*.

LORD BEACONSFIELD AND HOMŒOPATHY.

DURING the sickness of the late Lord Beaconsfield a question of medical ethics was brought up which will appear amusing or important, according to the point of view of the observer. The regular medical advisor of Lord Beaconsfield was a reputed homœopath, Dr. Kidd. This gentleman was a person of good medical education, and of more than ordinary ability and force of mind. Not caring to take the sole responsibility in the case, he asked for a consultation with Dr. Quain. This was at first distinctly refused, on the ground that Dr. Kidd was a homœopath. Being assured, however, that the treatment which Beaconsfield had received was not homœopathic at all, Dr. Quain, after much painful cogitation, and after consultation with distinguished friends well versed in the more recondite phases of medical ethics, consented to the consultation, and acted with Dr. Kidd as medical adviser.

It must be confessed that the affair puts medical ethics, as far as it relates to homœopaths, in a very curious light. It was no doubt Dr. Quain's right and duty to assist Dr. Kidd when asked to do so. But the excuse which was offered, that Dr. Kidd did not practice homœopathy in this case, was a ridiculous one, and unworthy of being put forward in justification of the action. If the "Code" were altered so as to allow regular practitioners to consult with homœopaths in those particular instances when the said homœopaths practice scientific medicine there would indeed be wide confusion. Dr. Quain had a right to consult with Dr. Kidd, because the latter gentleman did not claim to practice medicine according to any exclusive dogma; because, furthermore, he did not advertise himself, and was a man whose moral character could not be impeached. These are the true tests which should regulate medical conduct in such emergencies.

Homœopathy, so-called, is an unutterable humbug, and is to be consigned to the eternal Limbos of the Unblessed—where, indeed, it is already for the most part gone. But we need not ostracize a man because he thinks there are some useful remedies in the so-called homœopathic therapeutics

which can be prescribed in very small doses with good effect, or even because he thinks that the *similia similibus* principle is a suggestive guide in the use of remedies. Such a man may be mistaken, but he need not necessarily be either dull or dishonest.

CHIAN TURPENTINE IN CANCER.

A RATHER remarkable improvement in a case of recurrent scirrhus of the breast subjected to treatment by Chian turpentine has just been recorded in Paris, in a letter addressed to the Tribune Médicale by Dr. Sabah, of Eauze. In June, 1878, M. Lannelongue, of Bordeaux, removed a mammary tumor, the clinical and microscopical characters of which were those of scirrhus cancer. In April, 1880, Mme. D—— again consulted M. Lannelongue, who, however, decided against another operation, owing to the degree with which the axillary glands and chest-wall were invaded by a recurrence of the growth. Treatment by Chian turpentine was commenced on October 13th, when the right breast was double the size of the left, and was traversed by enlarged vessels, the axillary glands completely involved, the arm swollen, and the hand paralyzed, and lumbar pain so severe and continuous as to require injections of atropine and morphia three times a day. The general health, however, was not affected. The drug was given hourly, and for the first two days produced diarrhoea; but on the third day the pain began to subside, and the arm to diminish in size. On the ninth day the menses, which had been suppressed for more than five years (the patient was forty-two years old), returned, and lasted five days, during which the turpentine was withheld. The treatment was then resumed, and by October 30th the circumference of the arm had been diminished by three and one-half centimetres, and the tumor appeared to be resolving. Dr. Sabah looked upon the return of the catamenia as at once a proof and a guarantee that a cure was being effected. It must, however, be conceded that a sufficient time has not elapsed to speak of this as a case of cure, and it is to be hoped that the history of the case will be further reported at some future date. On many grounds too early publication of such facts is to be deprecated rather than encouraged.—*The Therapeutic Gazette*.

TREATMENT OF GLUTINOUS COLITIS BY EUONYMIN.

At a late meeting of the Société de Médecine a case was reported (*L'Union Médicale*) of a woman afflicted for several months with what the ancients called glutinous diarrhoea, which consists in the excretion by the stools of matter presenting the appearance of false membranes, ribbon-like, of greater or less width, length, and thickness, and liable to be taken at first sight for bits of tapeworm. This excretion, preceded and accompanied by extremely painful colics, recurred frequently in the twenty-four hours. It coincided (or alternated), as it usually does, with an inveterately obstinate constipation. Purgatives and laxatives, amongst them podophyllin and enemata of various kinds, had all proved ineffective. In consultation with Dr. Henri Gueneau de Mussy, the slightly yellow, subicteric tint of the patient's skin led us to think that the constipation on which this pseudo-membranous colitis depended might be due to a morbid state of the liver, whose functions were irregularly performed. Accordingly he advised me to have recourse to a remedy long since used in England and America, where it originated—euonymin—an alcoholic extract derived from the bark of the root of the wahoo, the name by which the Indians designate the *euonymus atropurpureus*.

We prescribed one of the following pills, to be taken night and morning before food :—

R Euonymin, 0.05 centigr., ($\frac{3}{4}$ gr.)
Ext. Hyoscyami, 0.10 centigr., ($1\frac{1}{2}$ gr.)

Make a mass and divide into two pills.

After four or five days of this treatment the patient experienced great relief. The stools became easy, regular, normal, free from colic and false membranes. The improvement was easily maintained by resuming the pills on the first appearance of headache or constipation. Besides mitigating the irritant effects of cholagogue substances, hyoscyamus possesses laxative properties, as pointed out by Sturk, and therefore fulfills a double purpose in such cases.—*Canadian Journal of Medical Science*.